

CARA Alert – April 28, 2021

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

CARA LOBBY DAY ON MAY 21ST

BRIEFING FOR LOBBY DAY PARTICIPANTS ON MAY 14TH AT NOON

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This briefing is for everyone who has signed up to participate in one of the 120 legislative visits that CARA is coordinating on May 21st. We will review the bills that CARA will be presenting, the best format for your meetings, and answer any questions you have before our May 21st lobby day. Even if you are not attending a legislative meeting, this is a chance to learn more about CARA's priority bills for 2021. If you have not signed up to visit your state Assemblymember or Senator, you can still do so by contacting caralobby@gmail.com.

A GRAND ALLIANCE TO SAVE THE POSTAL SERVICE

After a year of successfully fighting back against savage cuts to our public Postal Service, it's time for us to go on the offensive. The Postal Board of Governors sets the postal agenda and it hires, fires and holds accountable the Postmaster General. Its members are appointed by the U.S. President and confirmed by the Senate and we need President-elect Biden to appoint pro-postal Governors.

[Click here to add your name to the petition.](#)

The current board not only hired the current Postmaster General, but has supported his mail-delaying policies. Governors are nominated by the U.S. President and confirmed by the US Senate. With a new White House administration and a new Senate majority just days away, newly-elected President Joe Biden can fill four vacancies.

[Will you help make sure those vacancies are filled by strong nominees who will fight for the Postal Service we all deserve? Add your name to the petition here.](#)

IT'S TIME TO END THE WEP/GPO – VOTE YES on HR 82

In the 1980's, Congress developed a poorly designed plan to remedy what some saw as an unfair advantage for public workers and their pensions. The result - thousands of public workers saw their earned Social Security retirement benefits drastically reduced or in some case eliminated thru the WEP and GPO.

Both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) have negatively affected thousands of retirees across the country and will

continue to have this effect on the thousands of baby boomers who retire every year. Research shows that women are especially adversely affected. In part this is because women are more likely to survive their spouse and see a reduced dependent survivor benefit.

For the past several years Congress has put forward bills that would remediate this injustice. Sadly, these bills never get to the floor for a vote. There is an opportunity this legislative session to be proactive and sponsor HR 82-Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 which would repeal the WEP-GPO. A similar bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate. We are urging our CA Congressional Delegation and U.S. Senators to support these bills. **Please contact your Representative and ask them to Vote YES on HR 82!**

HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT!!!

As many of us have heard, AB 1400 (Kalra), the CA Guaranteed Health Care Act (CALCare) has been pulled back and will not be considered this year. It is now a 2 year bill and may be amended and heard next year. In the meantime, there is still so much we can do to move Guaranteed Health Care for All forward in California.

SIGN THE PETITION TO GOVERNOR NEWSOM AND PASS IT ON!

<https://bit.ly/CARA-Healthcare>

Our first step is getting Governor Newsom to request a waiver for California to develop a state-based system and bring federal resources into California. The Governor must lead on this issue if we hope to win. In addition to signing the petition, the Governor's Healthy CA Commission, which was created to help design a single financing system for California so that health care for all can become a reality, is reconvening on May 21st from 1pm-5pm. The agenda and zoom information will be posted 10 days in advance. Go to www.chhs.ca.gov/healthycforall/

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